

I arrived in the evening at Black River where we camped. These Indians have left their reserve at Little Forks for this summer, but intend to return as soon as they have taken up the potatoes which they planted. Eleven members of this band died of small-pox on the Reserve last winter which is their reason for abandoning it for the summer. I paid part of the band in the evening and the remainder in the morning and gave out the supplies.

On the 16th the Rainy Lake bands, were paid on their reserve, and I gave out the supplies. Their gardens have a better appearance than they had last year, and some have planted on the large reserve where the land is better than at the village.

On the 17th I started with a tug for north-east bay of Rainy Lake, Red Gut's reserve, where I paid his band in the evening and gave out the supplies. I visited their gardens, which have a good appearance and are enlarged.

On the 20th I started by canoe for Mattawan and Lac Seul and paid the Rainy Lake North-West Bay Band. This band have commenced to plant on their reserve, but still have gardens on the Islands. Their gardens look well. This band have still two cows and one ox to receive but they are not prepared to receive them.

I Arrived at Mattawan on 26th. En route we passed through the lake where they have taken their reserve. The land is good and there is excellent fishing summer and winter. I paid these Indians and started for Lac Seul that evening. I arrived at Lac Seul on 28th and as all the Indians were assembled I paid them and settled the final question of the reserve, as Mr. Vaughan, the surveyor, was on the spot.

I remained at Lac Seul on Sunday, gave out the supplies on Monday morning, and as my route to Wabagon took me past most of the gardens I visited them in passing. They have carrots, turnips, potatoes and corn, and all the gardens look well.

I arrived at Wabagon Reserve on the 31st, and as the Indians of Eagle Lake were also here, I paid them. I saw the gardens of the Eagle Lake Indians on the 23rd on my route to Mattawan. These Indians are more industrious than the Wabagon band although the latter have made marked improvements since last payment.

There have been several deaths in these bands, mostly caused by diphtheria and fevers. The small-pox was brought to Little Forks Reserve from the American side by an Indian who had been hunting. Mr. Armit was sent down with medicine and a nurse, and a special messenger was sent on to Winnipeg for a doctor on the 9th March. Dr. Kerr arrived here on the 18th; there were eleven deaths; a strict quarantine was kept, and the scourge was confined to this reserve.

On the 9th January, two Indians came in from Eagle Lake, to notify me that men were cutting timber on the reserve. I immediately made preparations and accompanied them to Eagle Lake. On my arrival I notified the foreman that they were trespassing and they at once stopped work. I seized the timber cut; a quantity had already been hauled four miles to the railroad track; this I also seized and left a man in charge. I put up a notice, and reported to the Superintendent in Winnipeg. I received a letter of advice from the Superintendent that the timber had been released from seizure.

The Indians are quite indignant that men have been allowed to trespass on their reserve, and they demand pay for the timber cut. Mr. Forest Ranger Hourigan has since been through the reserve and has no doubt made his report.

No serious sickness has appeared among the Indians during the summer, and they have not been allowed to congregate on the Portage at Fort Frances, as usual. There is every appearance of an abundant crop of wild rice, and their gardens of corn and potatoes look well.

The supplies were landed at the several reserves at the specified time and were of good quality and correct in quantity.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. J. N. PITHER;

*Indian Agent.*